

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUWAIT 02346 200846Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 /077 W
-----097313 210539Z /64

R 191425Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 746
INFO USINT BAGHDAD POUCH
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 2346

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: IZ, PBOR, KU
SUBJECT: KUWAITI DESIRE TO RESUME BORDER TALKS WITH IRAQ

REF: (A) 77 KUWAIT 6272, (B) 77 KUWAIT 6430.

1. KUWAIT PRESS HAS REPORTED, AND MFA ARAB AFFAIRS OFFICER IBRAHIM AL-MOOSA HAS CONFIRMED TO US, THAT KUWAITI FON MIN SHEIKH SABAH AL-AHMAD HAS INVITED HIS IRAQI COUNTERPART TO KUWAIT TO DISCUSS BILATERAL MATTERS. AL-MOOSA INDICATED THAT INVITATION WAS DELIVERED IN BAGHDAD LAST WEEK, BUT THAT NO REPLY HAD BEEN RECEIVED AS OF APRIL 18. HE NOTED THAT THE BORDER PROBLEM IS WHAT THE KUWAITIS WANT TO TALK ABOUT AND IMPLIED THAT PROGRESS ON IT WAS NOT AS RAPID AS THE GOK WOULD LIKE.

2. COMMENT: SINCE THE LAST BILATERAL MEETING OF IRAQI-KUWAITI FON MINS IN NOVEMBER 1977, THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE INDICATION OF PROGRESS ON BORDER SETTLEMENT OR RELATED QUIDS PRO QUO IN WHICH IRAQ REPORTEDLY IS INTERESTED. DURING AN APRIL 18 CONVERSATION WHICH AMBASSADOR HAD WITH DEP PRI MIN/MIN
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PAGE 02 KUWAIT 02346 200846Z

INFO SHAIKH JABER AL-ALI, LATTER INDICATED THAT KUWAITIS HAD LITTLE HOPE THEY COULD MAKE MUCH HEADWAY ON BORDER QUESTION. HE INDICATED THEY WOULD TRY TO CONCENTRATE ON OTHER RELATIONSHIPS WHICH WOULD BE MORE ATTRACTIVE TO THE IRAQIS, SUCH AS SUPPLY OF KUWAIT-PRODUCED ELECTRICITY AND OTHER SERVICES TO SOUTHERN IRAQ IN EXCHANGE FOR SUPPLY OF FRESH WATER FROM SHATT AL-ARAB RIVER WHICH KUWAITIS

WOULD LOVE TO OBTAIN. GOK WAS UNWILLING TO MAKE ANY
CONCESSIONS WITH RESPECT TO BUBIYAN AND WARBAH ISLANDS, SO
THEY THINK IT BEST TO PUSH BORDER PROBLEMS INTO BACKGROUND
FOR TIME BEING. WE BELIEVE IT IS UNLIKELY THAT IRAQI
OBJECTIVE TO CONTROL STRATEGIC BANKS OF THE ISLANDS WILL
BE DEFLECTED BY THIS GOK APPROACH.
MAESTRONE

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